

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 8, 2014

Easton, Pa
Tuesday
October 8, 2014
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, at the Easton Area Community Center, located at 9th and Washington Streets, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano (6:30 P.M.), Warner, Panto (6)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were approximately seventy other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mayor Panto and Dr. Warner the Agenda was amended by changing item (a); a Resolution appointing Melanie Mauro to City Council, under new business to a floating position on the Agenda by the following vote

Yeas: Panto, Warner, Ruggles, Edinger, Brown (5)
Nays: None (0)

On motion of Mayor Panto and Dr. Warner the amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Warner, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner, the September 23, 2014 Council Meeting minutes and the October 1, 2014 Special Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Warner, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

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PUBLIC COMMENT
(Agenda Items Only)

Ms. Ghennifer Dennis, 1032 Lehigh Street, read from a prepared statement, (see attachment), and asked questions regarding improving the neighborhood, safety issues, Codes; Inspections and Landlord Accountability, and the Weed and Seed program. All questions and concerns were addressed by Mayor Panto, Council members, Mr. Steckman and Chief Scalzo.

The following persons also spoke regarding the above topics:

Mickey Katz, 130 S. 13th Street
Nick Alfero, 47-49 S. 12th Street
Francis Goode-Rivera, 322 N. 9th Street.
Louella Morris, 1006 Elm Street

Ms. Krystal Knighton, 922 Northampton Street, Apt. 1, spoke regarding problems she has been having with her landlord, the Codes Department and Mr. Steckman, regarding the condition of her apartment, and said that a Codes Inspection was scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2014.

Mr. Steckman spoke regarding when Ms. Knighton came into City Hall to see him.

Mayor Panto said that he would visit her residence on Thursday, October 9, 2014.

Madeline Mayer, 322 S. 10th Street, asked for a refuse container for in front of the Laundromat on S. 10th Street and said that she would replace bags in the container.

RESOLUTION
Appointing Melanie Mauro to City Council

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

141-2014

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas; Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)
Nays: None (0)

At this time Ms. Mauro was sworn in by Mayor Panto.

CONSENT AGENDA

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On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Resolution 138-2014, which approved a Five (5) Year Lease Agreement with the GEDP for the lease of a Tennant Model ALTV4300, Litter Machine at a cost of \$1.00.

Resolution 139-2014, which authorized the waiving of parking meter fees on street metered parking spaces and surface lots in downtown on certain dates.

Resolution 140-2014, which authorized the West Ward Neighborhood partnership to expand its Urban Farm, located on Easton neighborhood Center property, from ¼ acre to ½ acre.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)

Nays: None (0)

Abstain: Mauro (1)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, had no report.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported that Gretchen Longenbach would soon be leaving on Maternity Leave and said that her duties would be absorbed by the department.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, had no report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee had no report.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Ms. Knickerbocker had no report.

Mayor Panto had no report.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received by Council.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

Melody Rodgers, 842 W. Berwick Street, and President of the Southside Civic Organization spoke regarding a Traffic Accident, at Berwick and Center Streets, and regarding a problem with the Tow Truck company.

Mayor Panto and Chief Scalzo said that they would look into this matter.

Mrs. Rodgers also spoke regarding the intersection of Berwick and Iron Streets and requested help with vehicles disregarding the Stop Sign.

Wanda Heitzman, 1222 Lehigh Street spoke regarding a speeding problem on the 1200 block of Lehigh, asked the City and Police for assistance in curbing speeding on this street, and spoke regarding nuisance problems at 1224 Lehigh Street.

Ms. Heitzman thanked Mr. Steckman for his assistance with an abandoned property.

Tim Poff, 110 N. Warren Street spoke regarding the Weed and Seed program and asked that it be supported and to keep the program.

Anthony Marraccini, 525 Ferry Street, congratulated Ms. Mauro on her appointment to City Council and spoke regarding the placement of televisions on the sidewalks and alleys throughout the City.

Mayor Panto and Mr. Steckman addressed Mr. Marraccini's concerns.

Mayor Panto gave an update on the Jack's Market litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p. m. on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Mauro, Edinger, Brown (7)

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Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk